

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment and reconsideration of the claims. Please cancel claims 12-14 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a continuation application. Claim 42 has been amended to incorporate claim 12. Support for claim 42 can be found throughout the specification, including at paragraphs 54 and 61. No new matter has been added through the amendments.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 42-46 will be pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending objection to the claims and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 12 to 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0001582 (Charter *et al.*) in combination with WO 96/06532 (Johansen). The Examiner also rejects claims 35-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Canadian Patent No. 2,284,364 (Willcox *et al.*) in combination with European Patent Application No. 0 629 347 (Tomita *et al.*). As the rejected claims are no longer pending upon entry of the Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that these two rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are now moot. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim Objections

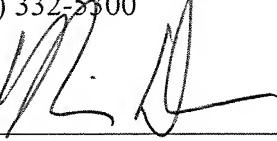
The Examiner objects to claims 42-46 since they are dependent from a rejected claim. Since claim 42 is now independent, and claims 43-46 no longer depend on rejected claims, these claim objections are now moot. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the objections to claims 42-46.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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